



America's Boating Club® of Lake MurraySM

Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as

Lake Murray Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



The Log Jam

Volume 61, No. 4

Fall 2024 issue:

Welcome New Members

Samaritan's Purse

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Welcome Aboard New Members!

We hope you enjoy our educational classes, civic service opportunities, and all the amenities the squadron has to offer.

Ed Schenck and Cynthia Johns;
Cindy Lojewski; Craig and Kim Adams
with Hannah and Isabelle

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes!

Pick up shoeboxes at the Annual Meeting/Oktoberfest on **October 19th** at Flotilla and bring filled shoeboxes to the Change of Watch at Yacht Cove on **November 9th**.

Need ideas? [What to put in the shoebox](#)

Have questions? Contact Pam at ppburtis@yahoo.com.



Commander's Report

By Cdr Joe Firimonte, P

How the Sausage is Made!!

Serving as your Commander this year was very eye opening as I truly got to see how our club works. Most of my contributions to The Log Jam this year were related to VOLUNTEERISM.

ABC of Lake Murray couldn't survive on dues only. I wonder how many members realize that when they pay their dues that if it's a single membership only \$66 goes towards ABC of Lake Murray or if it's a couple membership only \$90 goes towards the club? Our expenses are double what membership brings in.

That's why it's very important for everyone to participate in our many social events as they bring in the bulk of the money. Our members who put on these events work hard to give value back to those who attend. Without them it's likely our dues would have to double to pay our expenses to keep ABC of Lake Murray afloat.

So the point I'm trying to make is just paying your dues is simply not enough! If you can afford to make an extra donation to the building fund or dock fund it would be much appreciated. Volunteer at one of our many events. Teach a class.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has volunteered for one thing or another this year. You make a difference! You understand how satisfying and rewarding it is to give back.

I want to thank my bridge this year for their hard work in tackling the issues we faced and coming up with workable solutions. They have sacrificed their time this year to meet monthly for the betterment of our club. To many the efforts you made this year go unnoticed but I appreciate you!

I also want to thank all the Committee Chairs for the efforts you have put in this year as well. Your behind the scenes work for ABC of Lake Murray is much appreciated!

In closing, our nominating committee is hard at work contacting many of you to serve on the next bridge or as a committee chair. Will you answer the call to serve? If you are interested in making a difference please let us know and we will be glad to have you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve YOU this year as your Commander. As I enter the ranks of Past Commanders, you can bet I will continue serving wherever I can.



Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C Mike Charles, AP

The summer has ended, but our boating continues!

I am writing this to each of you having just finished a week of boating/bridge/meeting activities and wanting to express wide thanks to the many of you who pitch in and make these major events actually go from concept to full color reality.

To name a few recent examples in reverse order:

The Dam Swim on Lake Murray was completed with around twelve boats from ABC/LM in concert with many law enforcement boats and other organizations plus a large number of swimmers (the final number is yet unknown to me). This event occurred in marginal yet, inspirational, conditions (depending on your point of view): rain, low ceiling, borderline temperature, a stiff breeze and various agencies/individuals/kayakers/radio operators and safety personnel – all in concerted effort to provide a safe environment in which to execute this annual and well attended event. Big thanks to our members Rick and Doug Kahn, the operators of TOWBoat/US, for their splendid arrangements of boats, marks, frequencies, and making the puzzle pieces all come together in the rising dawn.

The night before the swim was a recurring event of a smaller in scale, one of several monthly Reference Lights Cruises. New member Bob Bennett and son Eryk, accompanied by Mike and Jonah Charles, braved high winds to attempt checking lights from Bomb Island and then west. Mike Urquhart checked lights from Bear Creek to the dam.

The monthly Bridge meeting met earlier in the week to finalize the details for our upcoming Change of Watch and, a month later, our ABC/LM Christmas Party. This assembly of members are putting their personal energy into making two exceptionally fine events come to a location near you (Yacht Cove)!

During the last month, the nominating committee worked diligently to finalize a slate for Bridge officers to serve next year. That vote will occur at the annual membership meeting on October 19, 2024, at Flotilla Island.

The week before all these opportunities to serve unfolded, the Goat Island cleanup was spearheaded by, again, our own P/C Mike Urquhart along with two pontoon boats filled with approximately thirteen eager island sweepers. All cleaning accomplished and a brilliant setting sun marked their return to Flotilla Island where a delicious pizza snack was enjoyed after a safe docking!

This, my fellow club members, is just a glimpse of the past two weeks of various efforts and energies expended to make our lake safe, clean and a source of visible accomplishment when a group of likeminded people determine to dedicate themselves to a mutual purpose! Keep up the magnificent work as more days on the busy calendar open yet other chances to give to our greater cause – boating for all!



Safety Officer's Report

By P/C Jerry Wise, SN

A Simple Life Saver, but only You can make it happen...

Lake Murray Power Squadron put together a beautiful trip to the British Virgin Islands in the early 2000s. Many of us had never been to the clear blue waters of the Caribbean but were experienced boaters and swimmers. The sailboat we were on was a large Catalina with a significant draft and had to be anchored a good ways offshore. The keel was too deep for the shallow waters next to the ports of call so you had to anchor out.

On this particular day we were anchored off "The Baths" and had paddled ashore in the dingy. After wading around a bit I noticed my sunglasses were still aboard the Catalina several hundred yards away. Rather than take the dingy I decided to swim back to the boat, grab the glasses and return. There was only a mild swell running with no wind or waves so it would be a piece of cake. Off I went and easily made the vessel, picked up the glasses and went back in for the swim back. Most of the way back went fine but it sure was wearing me out. I was getting exhausted but the shore was eventually close by, maybe 30 yards or so away. I finally gave up the swim when I looked down and saw I could stand up and touch the bottom.

Rolling over into the standing position I prepared to walk on in. It was not to be as my airway filled with water and I realized while the bottom was "right there," it was really 20 feet away. Already a foot under the water, exhausted and no where near the bottom something had to be done in a hurry. I kicked back to the surface and rolled over on my back in the back float position. Then rested there and slowly paddled on back to the shore like I was intending to do that all along. Nobody caught what had happened so I came out acting cool and like this was just a normal little swim. It came as quite a surprise how crystal clear the water was. Almost as if it wasn't there. If you have never seen those Caribbean waters, its amazing. A real learning experience.

Many of us are very comfortable "Floating" on our backs and never really practice it and certainly not in waters with a little chop running. This swimming position really should be a good method to practice just a little now and again. It's a very good way to "catch your breath" if you ever over-estimate your abilities.

Some excellent advice on Floating is available on the Internet with many videos. Some things to keep in mind is Floating depends on the individual's body composition. Some people can float all day, others will float like an anchor while others float intermittently bobbing around like a cork. Really a good idea for a test run just to be sure you can depend on it.



Administrative Officer's Report

By Lt/C John Klein, P

On behalf of the ABC/LM bridge, I would like to express my gratitude to all our volunteers. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm are key to keep ABC/LM afloat.

Whether you have been volunteering for years or just joined, your contributions are invaluable.

Labor day weekend we held the Flotilla Friday cheesesteak dinner and Commander's Breakfast. Later that week we cleaned up Goat Island. Many volunteers pitched in to make these happen and better yet, had a blast doing it.

There are so many ways to volunteer and help. Watch the ABC/LM emails and pitch in where you can. If you would like to lead or co-lead a new event, cruise, meal, whatever... contact me or any bridge member and we will work it into the calendar.

We are truly blessed to have this great organization, powered by our awesome volunteers.



Educational Report

By Lt/C Mike Zafoot, AP



This will be my last article as SEO for ABC/Lake Murray. I am turning over the helm to two very capable hands at the end of this year. Upon membership approval, your new SEO will be Brian Warman and ASEO will be Donnie Browning. I have met with both of them and they are enthusiastic and ready to get started.

I would like to thank the many people who have contributed to the Educational Department of ABC/Lake Murray. A special thanks to the class instructors. The instructors we have for ABC, Advanced Grades and Electives are second to none. I have enjoyed working with all of you for the past four years. Thank You for all your efforts in making this a successful educational program.

We are looking to have a Piloting class, Marine Electrical class and Cruise Planning Class. Start dates for these courses are not yet confirmed, so please email me at captnzool@gmail.com and let me know if you are interested. We need a minimum of five members in order to put on a class. I would like to start these classes ASAP.

Just so hard work does not go unnoticed, six of our ABC instructors in team teaching have been nominated for the Polaris Award. Thanks again to everyone for all your support!

October-December Activities

For ABC/Lake Murray Members and invited guests

(All activities at Flotilla Island unless otherwise noted)

October

12th - Overnight Raftup

18th - Flotilla Friday

19th - Annual Meeting & Oktoberfest

November

2nd - Italian Fest

9th - Change of Watch - Yacht Cove

16th - Game Night

December

7th Holiday Party - Yacht Cove

Check our online [calendar](#) for upcoming events. You also will find other resources and information on our website at LMPSonline.org

Follow us on our Members-Only Facebook page [Lake Murray Happenings | Facebook](#) for the latest news and on our public Facebook page [America's Boating Club of Lake Murray!](#)

Together, we can continue to make our club a thriving and welcoming space for everyone.

July - September Event Highlights

Thornwell Children's Day, July 27



Smiles, laughter, joy, thank you for making this day successful to some awesome kids. Y'all are AWESOME!

Log Jam #2, August 17

What a great raft up. We had a total of 24 boats and about 65 folks and ended up serving about 80 hot dogs!!



Flotilla Friday Philly Cheese Steak Night, August 30



Members enjoyed a delicious and fun night of Philly cheesesteaks grilled by a band of Blackstones grill chefs - Robin Gilbert, John Klein, Fred Ruinen, Tyler Williams, K.T. Tripathi and Tim Barnhill.



Commander's Breakfast, September 1



Breakfast favorites were enjoyed by all at the Commander's Breakfast at Flotilla!



July - September Event Highlights



Goat Island Clean Up, August 31

ABC/Lake Murray had a great turn out for our “Adopt an Island” clean-up at Goat Island. Two pontoons, captained by Mike Urquhart and his neighbor George Gee, loaded up volunteers and motored over to the island with garbage bags and grabbers. They split up into two groups and managed to clean the entire island in a couple of hours. Thanks to Sue Bailey, we had pizza waiting for us when we returned to Flotilla!



Reference Cruise, September 13

Thank you to all for the help checking Reference Lights in September. It was such a beautiful night on the lake, and we even saw the moonrise, which was gorgeous!



Dam Swim Volunteers, September 14

Not an ideal day for the Lake Murray Dam Swim, but glad to be part of the many organizations out here helping protect the swimmers!

District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous, September 20-22

Eight ABC/Lake Murray members enjoyed the annual D26 Cruise & Rendezvous hosted on the Georgia coast by Tybee Light. Events included a Savannah River Cruise, dinner at the Tybee pier, Savannah port tour, dinner at the Crab House, and Happy Hours. A good time was had by all!



Bald Head Island Cruise, August 22-27

Six days of cruising to Bald Head Island and Carolina Beach! Seven boats trailered to NC and enjoyed two nights at BHI and three nights at CB! It was a great time touring Bald Head in a golf cart, walking around Carolina Beach and taking a side cruise to Wrightsville Beach! Even stuck our nose out into the Atlantic at Masonboro Inlet. Great food, great fun with great friends!



District 26 Virtual Fall Conference

9am-12pm on October 26

Fall is almost here and so is our District 26 Fall Conference. Understanding that many of our members partake in college football traditions, we scheduled our Fall Conference date when Clemson and South Carolina have a bye week - October 26. Our Fall Conference will be virtual again this year, scheduled for 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and will focus on communications to D26 members and squadrons.

Three primary areas will be discussed: District Business, National Update and Special Topics. Each department and Cdr Barb Sommers will update us on key activities or initiatives undertaken the past six months, including updates on initiatives National is or will be undertaking and how we might leverage these at the District or Squadron levels. The special topics are still being finalized, but tentatively they will include information on the updated Squadron Activity Report System (SARS) and the iMIS rollout.

Please save the date and plan on joining us from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM on **Saturday, October 26**.

We hope you will be able to join us for this informative conference.

Steven Jensen
D26 Administrative Officer



Be a Better Boater - Take an Online Course

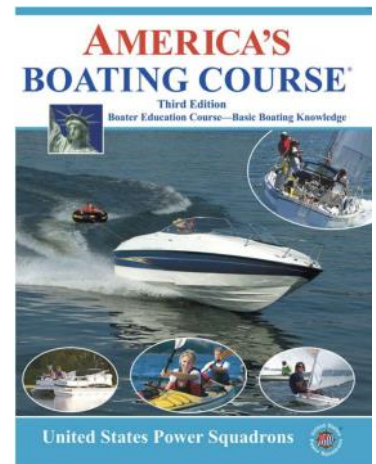
America's Boating Course

No matter how much experience you have with boating, it is important to have the knowledge needed to keep your passengers, yourself, and your boat safe.

Get your state boating card and learn the skills you need to be safe while boating. Take the finest National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) recognized online boating safety course available. By enrolling in the America's Boating Course, you will learn navigation rules, water sports safety, and other valuable boater safety skills.

Learn the basics of boating online and at your own pace. [Sign up today!](#)

Or even better, sign up for the classroom version of this course taught by nationally certified ABC/Lake Murray instructors. Email Lt/C Mike Zafoot for information on the next class to be held at Flotilla Island.



Boating on Rivers, Locks & Lakes

Learn to confidently boat in fickle rivers, develop the special skills you need to deal with currents and shallows, know how to maneuver through locks, and learn the correct ways to maneuver in the presence of commercial vessels when you are boating on major inland waterways. Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes, a seminar from America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons, prepares you for challenges as well as encounters with barges and other commercial vessels. [Learn more and sign up today!](#)

Find your Bearings - How to Use GPS

Know where you are and where you are going. By taking America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons' online seminar, you'll learn how to plan and navigate a safe route.

How to Use GPS teaches you:

- ⇒ how to use waypoints, build and execute routes, and monitor progress
- ⇒ how to interpret location information and tracking data
- ⇒ how GPS integrates with your boat's electronic systems

You'll also get tips on connecting your GPS to your VHF marine radio—opening up a new world of digital hailing and distress signaling. [Learn more and sign up today!](#)

America's Boating Channel™

Fire Extinguisher Regulations

In 2022, the Coast Guard amended portable fire extinguisher rules for recreational vessels in the U.S., making it easier and less costly for millions of boat owners to maintain the onboard fire protection equipment that they need.



The rules do not change the number or types of extinguishers required on board but do simplify inspection and record-keeping requirements. The simplified rules also are now published with other recreational boating rules, making it easier to identify them.

America's Boating Channel video "Fire Extinguisher Regulations" offers an overview of the rules that separates commercial and recreational vessel fire protection requirements. It will help you learn how to ensure that all required portable fire extinguishers comply. Also featured are tips for preventing onboard fires in the first place.

If you need a refresher on classifications and carriage requirements for marine fire extinguishers, the channel offers a second video titled "Fire Extinguisher Standards." It offers tips for placing and servicing fire extinguishers, and explains the acronym PASS. Above all, ensure that the proper number of functional fire extinguishers are on board, readily accessible and that all responsible adults on board know to pull, aim, squeeze, and sweep.

U.S. Coast Guard approved marine-type fire extinguishers fully charged and in good and serviceable condition are required on recreational boats where the engines or fuel system could pose a fire hazard. Good and serviceable means that a fire extinguisher aboard a recreational vessel is properly charged and reads charged if it has a pressure gauge reading or charge indicator, that the extinguisher has a pin lock that is firmly in place, that it does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage and has a discharge nozzle that is clean and free from obstructions. Disposable dry chemical extinguishers expire 12 years after their date of manufacture, and rechargeable extinguishers expire annually unless maintained by a certified technician.

Follow the video links above or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.



In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. America's Boating Channel™ is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Fishing - Lake Murray & Beyond

Boating and Fishing often go together just as members and friendship go together! Check out some member pics of fishing adventures near and far!



America's Boating Club of Lake Murray
is on the web:
<http://www.lmpsonline.org>

Log Jam Editor

Send content ideas and photos!

Email the Editor

Lt Diane Urban at

baysidedi@gmail.com



Articles, opinions, and advertisements do not necessarily reflect
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Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with the Lake Murray Power Squadron By-Laws Section 6.8, the Squadron Nominating Committee presents the following nominees to serve as Bridge Officers and Members-at-Large of the 2024-2025 Executive Committee and to serve on Elected Committees as prescribed in Article 5, Sections 5.2-5.7. This slate will be presented to the membership for a vote at our annual meeting on 19 October at Flotilla Island.

Commander – Lt/C Mike Charles
Executive Officer – Lt/C John Klein
Administrative Officer – Lt K.T. Tripathi
Educational Officer – Brian Warman
Assistant Educational Officer – Donnie Browning
Secretary – Lt/C Becky Weiler
Treasurer – Lt/C Cathy Urquhart
Assistant Treasurer – 1st/Lt Mel Charles

Members-at-Large:

Lt Tyler Williams
Lt Joe Troutwine
Lt Gene Malcolm

Nominating Committee:

P/C Mike Urquhart (2025)
P/C Tim Barnhill (2026)
P/C Joe Firimonte (2027)

Audit Committee

P/C Mike Kirk (2025)
Tim Austin (2026)
Susan Ruinen (2027)

Rules Committee

P/C RJ Becht (2025)
P/C Fred Ruinen (2026)
Dennis Rankin (2027)

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all the members who were interviewed and especially those members who have agreed to serve the membership in the upcoming Watch Year. We have pledged our support to each of them and are more than confident in their ability to serve in their proposed positions.

According to our bylaws, if openings exist in the properly formulated slate of nominees at the time of the election, they shall be filled by nominations from the floor duly made by active members.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Nominating Committee Chairman Ed Garbe at egarbe@bellsouth.net.

Respectfully submitted,
P/C Ed Garbe, S
P/C Mike Urquhart, AP
P/C Tim Barnhill, AP



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A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



Bridge Officers

2024

Commander: Cdr Joe Firimonte (commander@lmpsonline.org)

Executive Officer: Lt/C Mike Charles (execofficer@lmpsonline.org)

Administrative Officer: Lt/C John Klein (adminofficer@lmpsonline.org)

Educational Officer: Lt/C Mike Zafoot (seo@lmpsonline.org)

Assistant Educational Officer: 1st Lt Drew Byrd (astseo@lmpsonline.org)

Secretary: Lt/C Becky Weiler (secretary@lmpsonline.org)

Treasurer: Lt/C Cathy Urquhart (treasurer@lmpsonline.org)

Assistant Treasurer: 1st Lt Melody Charles (asttreasurer@lmpsonline.org)

Members-at-Large

Lt Joe Troutwine (matla@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Tyler Williams (matlb@lmpsonline.org)

Lt K.T. Tripathi (matlc@lmpsonline.org)

P.O. Box 113, Ballentine, South Carolina 29002

